

## 1

### **Carmina Burana**

The Israeli Vocal Ensemble

Soloist: **Alexei Kanunikov** – Bass

*Percussionists and pianist TBA*

Conductor: **Yuval Benozzer**

*Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff is one of the most thrilling and beloved works of the 20th century. The work is based on a collection of medieval poems in Latin and Middle High German celebrating the beauty of nature, love, and the cycle of life, alongside satirical verses mocking the hypocrisy of religious institutions, among other themes. Orff clothed these texts in vivid musical colours, combining driving rhythms, rich melodies, and large, impressive choral movements. Together, these elements transformed the ancient texts into a bacchanalian celebration and granted the work immense popularity. In addition to the original orchestral version, which requires a massive ensemble, various arrangements have been created over the years that preserve the choral and solo parts while reducing the orchestral forces. This performance presents an arrangement for two percussionists and piano by Tomer Yariv.

Program:

**Carl Orff:** *Carmina Burana*, instrumental arrangement: Tomer Yariv

Ra'anana – Municipal Center for Music and Arts: Sunday, November 8, 2026, 20:00

Tel Aviv – Tel Aviv Museum of Art: Tuesday, November 10, 2026, 20:00

Haifa – Rappaport Hall: Saturday night, November 14, 2026, 20:00

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## 2

### **Esther**

**The Israeli Vocal Ensemble**

**Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra**

*Soloists TBA*

Conductor: **Yuval Benozzer**

*Esther* is Handel's first oratorio and the first oratorio written in England (1718–1720). The work is based on Jean Racine's play *Esther*, itself a free adaptation of the biblical Book of Esther. Through Handel's distinctive musical language, weaving together dramatic arias and rich, varied choral movements, unfolds the dramatic story of Esther, Mordecai, Haman, and Ahasuerus. Performed with the Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra and guest soloists.

Program:

**George Frideric Handel:** the oratorio *Esther*

Tel Aviv – Tel Aviv Museum of Art: Wednesday, March 3, 2027, 20:00

Ra'anana – Municipal Center for Music and Arts: Thursday, March 4, 2027, 20:00

Haifa – Catholic Church (Mar Elias): Saturday, March 6, 2027, 12:00

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**3**

### **The Little Match Girl**

#### **The Israeli Vocal Ensemble**

Conductor: **Yuval Benozzer**

At the center of the concert stands the Pulitzer Prize–winning choral work (2008) by American composer David Lang, based on the famous story by Danish author Hans Christian Andersen, *The Little Match Girl*. The fragile figure of a poor girl wandering through a freezing Christmas Eve, trying to sell matches to passersby hurrying home to warmth, her loneliness and final visions, moved generations of readers and continue to do so today. Over the years, the story has inspired numerous adaptations for stage, film, and music.

Alongside this work, the ensemble will premiere a new composition by Zohar Sharon — composer, arranger, and founder of the Revolution Orchestra.

Program:

**David Lang:** *The Little Match Girl Passion*

**Zohar Sharon:** World premiere of a new work for the ensemble

Haifa – Catholic Church (Mar Elias): Friday, May 21, 2027, 12:00

Jerusalem – St. Andrew's Scots Memorial Church: Saturday night, May 22, 2027, 20:30

Ra'anana – Municipal Center for Music and Arts: Sunday, May 23, 2027, 20:00

Tel Aviv – Tel Aviv Museum of Art: Monday, May 24, 2027, 20:00

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**4**

### **Cantare Italiano: Singing Italy!**

*A program of Italian music from all eras*

#### **The Israeli Vocal Ensemble**

Guest Conductor: **Giacomo Baggi** (Italy)

From madrigals by Renaissance giants Carlo Gesualdo and Claudio Monteverdi, through the “Sins of Old Age” by Gioachino Rossini — as he himself called his late works — to Sanremo hits that brought contemporary Italian romantic spirit to audiences around the world, young Italian conductor Giacomo Baggi, assistant conductor at La Scala and artistic coordinator at a historical music performance center in Pavia, leads the Israeli Vocal Ensemble in a program of Italian music across the centuries. A program about love, jealousy, and disappointment under Mediterranean sunlight and a Venetian moon.

Ra’anana – Municipal Center for Music and Arts: Thursday, July 8, 2027, 20:00

Tel Aviv – Tel Aviv Museum of Art: Friday, July 9, 2027, 13:00

Haifa – St. John’s Church: Saturday, July 10, 2027, 12:00

Jerusalem – St. Andrew’s Scots Memorial Church: Sunday, July 11, 2027, 20:00

The Israeli Vocal Ensemble and conductor Yuval Ben Ozer have led Israel’s choral scene for four decades with outstanding performances of diverse repertoire in yet another season of “The Vocal Experience” - a small series that has everything. The ensemble, made up of professional singers, performs with all major Israeli orchestras and participates in international festivals in Israel and abroad. It has won first prizes in international choir competitions in Malta, Spain, and Belgium. The ensemble’s extensive repertoire spans periods and styles ranging from medieval music to contemporary works and film soundtrack recordings. It performs concerts throughout Israel with the aim of bringing vocal music in general, and Israeli vocal music in particular, to the widest possible audiences.

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Concert tickets will be sold subject to availability after the subscription campaign concludes.

Regular ticket: 150 NIS / Senior ticket: 130 NIS

### **Concert Venues**

Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Museum of Art, 27 Shaul HaMelech Blvd.

Ra'anana: Municipal Center for Music and Arts, 2 Palmach St.

Haifa:

- St. John's Church, 30 Khouri St.
- Mar Elias Church, 23 Ein Dor St.
- Rappaport Hall, 138 HaNassi Blvd.

Jerusalem: St. Andrew's Scots Memorial Church, 1 David Remez St.

Online Hall: The ensemble's digital concert hall for live streams and recordings at [ivocal.co.il](http://ivocal.co.il)

The Israeli Vocal Ensemble also presents many special concerts throughout the country:

Children's opera by Yoni Rechter, based on his book and featuring David Grossman — *Itamar Meets a Rabbit*

Additional concerts with orchestras throughout the country.

Tickets for *Itamar Meets a Rabbit* are available at [ivocal.co.il](http://ivocal.co.il), by phone at 074-7012112, and via WhatsApp at 074-7012112.

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